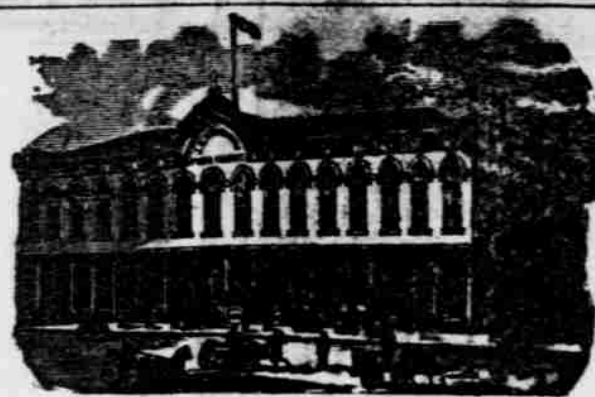


THE ABILENE



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ABILENE REFLECTOR.

Thursday, Feb. 18, 1886.

B. L. STROTHER, HENRY LITTS,
STROTHER & LITTS,
EDITORS AND PUBLISHERS.

READING FOR THE BOYS,

How John P. St. John Stirred up the Animals in the Cage.

Why He Left the Republican Party—Plenty of Precedents Afforded by Men Now High in its Esteem—Some Spicy Sentences.

Hon. J. V. Admire, Osage City, Kan. OLAHE, KAS., Jan. 25.—Dear Sir: I have just received a letter of which the following is a copy:

Mr. J. P. St. John, Olathe, Kan. Dear Sir: Enclosed a clipping from the Osage City Free Press, January 21, J. V. Admire editor. In explanation. When you were stopping here, it was at my mother's which is considered the best house in town. My dear mother read the article. She felt so hurt that I concluded to ask if you would write out a piece in regard to Mr. Admire and our house, trusting that you will grant me the favor and that I have not been too forward in addressing you. Yours Respectfully,

CHARLEY SCHIEFFERDECKER. The clipping referred to reads as follows:

"THE PENALTY OF TREASON. Ex-Governor John P. St. John was snow bound in this town three days during the great blizzard. It was generally known he took his meals at a cheap and remote boarding house and no one paid any attention to him. Two years ago under the same circumstances, twenty houses would have been thrown open to him, and 200 people or more would have waded through the snow to have shaken his hand.

"May such be the doom to all traitors."

I have heretofore paid no attention to the assaults made upon me through the columns of the Free Press during the past year or two. Certainly if they have been gratifying to you, they have not in the least annoyed me. Nor would I now make any reply were it not for the fact that you have seen fit to go out of your way to belittle the vocation of a widow lady who, although a stranger to me, is said to be a hard working and respectable lady, whose greatest offence seems in your estimation to be the making an earnest effort to support herself and children by keeping what it pleases you to term "a remote and cheap boarding house." It is true that I (with about two hundred others) was "snowbound in town about three days during the great blizzard" but this misfortune I feel sure you, in the greatness of your heart, will charge to the "blizzard," not me.

Shortly after my arrival in your city I applied at the Palace Hotel for entertainment, but was informed that the house owing to the unusual large number of strangers in town, was already full, but the gentleman in charge of the office kindly directed me to the place to which you refer, assuring me that it was in every way a respectable and desirable place at which to stop, and the terrible of the "blizzard" rendered it almost impossible for me to hunt you up, in order to procure your permission, which under ordinary circumstances, possibly would have done. I followed the instructions at the hotel and stopped at a boarding house centrally located, where, it will no doubt be a relief for you to know, I was well provided for, at the rate of two dollars per day, and which judging by the class of citizens of your own town who seemed to be regular boarders there I should say was in every way respectable, although you from your exalted position you occupy, may regard it as a "remote and cheap boarding house."

I trust that this explanation will at least be some consolation to you and in some due time become reconciled to the fact that you can't always have the world go just as you would like it, especially during a "great blizzard."

I feel sure it will be a great relief to you to know, that you were mistaken in saying that no one "paid any attention" to me for the weather was not such as to encourage social calls, and no person was expecting me, yet a number of old friends knowing that I was "snow bound" called to see me, among them Hon. C. S. Martin who is always mentally, politically and socially, broad enough to shake hands with an old acquaintance, though he might differ with him politically. But if no one had called, you might not have been in the least to blame for it, as it would be unfair and unreasonable to expect you to attend to everything in a "great blizzard."

That great warm heart of yours smother the stern demand for justice when you say, "May such be the doom of all traitors." Now allow me to re-

mind you that such a declaration on your part shows an utter lack of harmony with your party, for its demands of late have been to "make treason odious" and certainly remaining three days in a bright and growing city like Osage City and living on the "best the market affords" and having a pleasant time with old friends is not calculated to make "treason odious" nor would it likely prove a terror to "traitors."

The heading of your brief editorial with that which follows, seems to imply that I, at some time have been guilty of treason. Now if you mean treason to my country, I beg leave to call attention to the fact, that when soldiers were needed to stand by the old flag I did not furnish a substitute, but volunteered in its defense. But possibly my leaving the republican party is regarded by you as treason and I a "traitor." If so allow me to suggest that I joined the republican party when it was in the minority, I did not wait until it was in the majority, and able to bestow fat offices before I became a part of it. I left it however when it was in the majority, but in neither case did I for a moment think I was a "traitor" or that such an act constituted treason.

Charles Sumner, Gerrit Smith, Thaddeus Stevens, Owen Lovejoy, William Lloyd Garrison, Wendell Phillips, James G. Blaine, Abraham Lincoln, and many other good men left the political party to which each belonged and joined the republican party in its infancy and if such an act on their part was treason, then it is clear that had it not been for such "traitors" there never would have been any republican party.

General Logan did not leave the democratic party until after the republican party had beaten the democrats and gained control of the government, but no fairminded man has called him a political "traitor."

The "treason" of Longstreet, Mosby and Mahone ceased to be odious as soon as they left the democratic and joined the republican party.

But coming to our own beloved Kansas, I beg to remind you that in 1864, when republicanism was thought to be a synonym of loyalty, Hon. Solon O. Thacher was at the head and Hon. John J. Ingalls was second on the "opposition" ticket. Our own senator Plumb voted for the candidate of the democratic party for president in 1872 and against the "silent old hero" who now sleeps at Riverside park. Hon. J. Crawford only a few years ago was a candidate for congress at large in opposition to the republican party. Hon. John C. Carpenter, after accepting the temporary chairmanship of the republican convention in 1874, bolted the nomination of Hon. Thomas A. Osborn for governor and left the convention, followed by B. F. Simpson, James Snoddy and others. Hon. J. R. Halliwell not long ago was the candidate for attorney general in opposition to the republican ticket, while about the same time republicans in sufficient number bolted the nomination of Hon. Stephen A. Cobb for congress and thus elected Hon. John R. Goodwin, his democratic opponent, and more recently a great majority of republicans in the Third judicial district refused to support Hon. W. C. Webb, the republican nominee, and voted for and elected Hon. John Martin, a lifelong democrat, while I have your own statement recently made through your columns of the Free Press to the effect that 25,000 Republicans voted for Hon. George W. Glick in 1882, and thus helped elect a "bourbon," democrat as Governor of Kansas.

Were all these citizens of Kansas political "traitors?" I think not.

They had a perfect right under our form of government to vote for whatsoever party or individual their conscience approved, and the free right was nobody's business but their own. And to show you that the people of Kansas have not regarded it treasonable to even leave the republican party or bolt its nominees I have only to call your attention to the fact that Plumb is serving his second and Ingalls his third term in the United States senate and Thacher has time and again been rewarded, and a little over a year ago a lucrative office was thrust upon him, while Carpenter received the appointment of collector of internal revenue for the district of Kansas, and Simpson afterward filled the position of United States marshal and Halliwell was made district attorney for Kansas, while Crawford was given the best position of all—that of state agent—and even Snoddy has not wanted for republican crumbs. And I have no doubt but all these gentlemen have filled their respective positions just as faithfully as if they had done nothing to "hurt the party." Even you seem to be sufficiently successful in controlling your patriotism to enable you to hold a comfortable office under a demo-

cratic administration.

During all these years, commencing with a vote for Fremont and freedom in 1856 up to June 4, 1884, I stood unflinchingly by and for the Republican party. The prohibition party called its national convention to nominate candidates for president and vice president to meet at Pittsburg, Pa., in May, 1884. I as a republican believed that that convention meant danger to my party. Being earnestly in favor of the absolute prohibition of the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors as a beverage, and hoping that the party which once possessed the moral courage and political sagacity to strike down slavery, would, when brought face to face with this great question, at least show its respect for and faith in the people the source of all political power, by favoring in its platform the submission of the question to their verdict at the ballot box, with hundreds of others, I appealed to the national prohibition committee to postpone their convention until July, thus giving, in case we succeeded, the republican party not only a fair warning but an opportunity to guard against defeat, and save its own honor and name.

The prohibition convention was postponed.

But the republican party did not as much as give the slightest recognition to this friendly action on the part of the prohibitionists, but wholly ignored them and their cause, and ungratefully turned a deaf ear to the thousands who had been its true and faithful friends and helped to fight its battles and presented a captivating smile, to the keepers of the 200,000 distilleries, breweries and saloons coupled with a direct bid for their influence and votes. When it thus chose the influence of the saloon at the sacrifice of the home, I left it. I did not stay in its ranks and treacherously stab it in the back.

I promptly stepped out and let the world know it.

It was not its sins of commission, so much as its sin of omission that prompted me to leave it. And allow me in conclusion to suggest that encouraging mob violence, boycotting ministers of the gospel, calling people "traitors," egging Christian men and women, and burning political opponents in effigy for opinions sake, coupled with the trucking policy, both state and national, exhibited in dealing with the liquor traffic, crowned with a second Dred Scott decision as exemplified in the Walruff brewery case, is doing more to destroy the republican party than all other influences combined. Respectfully,

JOHN P. ST. JOHN.

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